PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the government of Burlington, Vermont, celebrates our local small businesses and the contribution they make to our local economy and community; according to the United States Small Business Administration, there are currently 28 million small businesses in the United States, which represent more than 99 percent of American companies, create two-thirds of the net new jobs, and generate half of private gross domestic product; and

WHEREAS, small businesses employ half of the employees in the private sector in the United States; and

WHEREAS, 89 percent of consumers in the United States agree that small businesses contribute positively to the local community by supplying jobs and generating tax revenue; and

WHEREAS, 86 percent of consumers in the United States have small businesses in their community that the consumers would miss if the small businesses closed; and

WHEREAS, 93 percent of consumers in the United States agree that it is important for people to support the small businesses that they value in their community; and

WHEREAS, 90 percent of consumers in the United States are willing to pledge support for a "buy local" movement; and

WHEREAS, Burlington's small businesses provide a means to lead a sustainable life for its citizens; and

WHEREAS, Burlington's small businesses are owned and operated by Burlington's diverse fabric of citizens representing over 40 different cultures; and

WHEREAS, Burlington supports our local businesses that create jobs, boost our local creative economy, and preserve our neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, advocacy groups and public and private organizations across the country have endorsed the Saturday after Thanksgiving as Small Business Saturday;

NOW THEREFORE, I, Miro Weinberger, Mayor of the City of Burlington, do hereby proclaim that November 28, 2015 be declared

SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY

and **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that I urge the residents of our community to support small businesses and merchants on Small Business Saturday and throughout the year.

Miro Weinberger, Mayor